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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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December 29, 2005

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – MOZELL  
PENNINGTON BOYS CENTER, COMPTON HOUSE GROUP HOME  
AND ROA MANOR GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Mozell Pennington Boys Center, Compton House Group Home and Roa Manor Group Home. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Compton House Group Home is an eight-bed facility, and Roa Manor Group Home is a six-bed facility, both homes provide care for boys ages 11 - 17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Compton House Group Home was providing services for seven Los Angeles County DCFS children, and Roa Manor Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Compton House Group Home and Roa Manor Group Home are located in the Second District.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

### **Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Both homes need to develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) that are specific and measurable; and ensure that children are receiving treatment services identified in their NSPs.

Compton House Group Home needs to clean the bathrooms; repair the cabinet in the laundry room; clean the light fixture in the back hallway; provide educational support and resources that are sufficient to meet the children's educational needs; and maintain current court authorizations for children receiving psychotropic medications.

Roa Manor Group Home needs to clean the bathroom cabinet and replace a missing knob on the cabinet door.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh  
[http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group\\_home.asp](http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp)

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer  
Mozell Pennington, Executive Director, Mozell Pennington Boys Center  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**Mozell Pennington Boys Center  
Compton House Group Home  
14818 South Butler Avenue  
Compton, California 90221  
Phone: (310) 639-2472  
License Number: 191600243  
Rate Classification Level: 8**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Compton House Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is adequately maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a homelike environment. However, the common quarters require improvement. In bathroom one, the shower door is dirty and has mold and mildew. The windowsill and floor are also dirty. In bathroom two, the bathtub grout has mold and mildew stains. In the laundry room, the wooden counter/shelf is split and cracked, and three of the cabinet doors need to be repaired or replaced. The light fixture in the back hallway is dirty and needs to be cleaned.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non-perishable foods.

### **Recommendations**

#### **1. Mozell Pennington Boys Center Management:**

- a. Clean the shower door, windowsill, and floor in bathroom one.**
- b. Clean the grout in bathroom two.**
- c. Repair the cabinet in the laundry room.**
- d. Clean the light fixture in the back hallway.**

### **II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive, and do not include long and short term goals.

Children are not receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.

### **Recommendations**

#### **2. Mozell Pennington Boys Center Management:**

- a. Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, measurable, and include long and short term goals.**
- b. Ensure that all children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.**

### **III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. One child is progressing satisfactorily in school, and is provided with educational support and resources to meet his educational needs. However, one child has significantly regressed in his school performance, and is not provided with sufficient educational support and resources to meet his educational needs.

The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendation**

3. **Mozell Pennington Boys Center Management provide all children with educational support and resources that are sufficient to meet their educational needs.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, court authorizations for psychotropic medications are not current.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication. Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendation**

- 4. Compton House Group Home Management maintain current court authorizations for all children receiving psychotropic medication.**

**VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment – Interviews with children**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**Mozell Pennington Boys Center  
Roa Manor  
16952 South Roa Drive  
Carson, California 90746  
Phone: (213) 321-6495  
License Number: 191600633  
Rate Classification Level: 8**

**I. Facility and Environment**

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Comments:**

Roa Manor Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

Overall the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, the bathroom sink cabinet is dirty, and one of the cabinet doors needs a knob.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

**Recommendation**

- 1. Mozell Pennington Boys Center Management clean the bathroom cabinet, and replace the missing knob on the cabinet door.**

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive, and do not include short and long term goals.

Children are not receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.

**Recommendations**

**2. Mozell Pennington Boys Center Management:**

- a. **Develop comprehensive NSPs that are specific, measurable, and include long and short term goals.**
- b. **Ensure that all children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.**

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school.

The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment –Interviews with children**

**Sample size for interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

**Recommendations**

There are no recommendations for this section.

**VII. Clothing and Allowance****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews****Sample size for interviews: Two****Comments:**

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Recommendations**

There are no recommendations for this section.

## ***Mozell Pennington's Boys Center***

***16952 S. Roa Drive***

***Carson, California 90746***

***323-321-6495 phone***

***310-329-4101 fax***

August 1, 2005

Candace Rue, GH Audit Supervisor  
Dept. of Auditor Controller  
500 W. Temple St. Room #515-A  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
213-346-9020 fax

Re: Program Audit Report- July 21, 2005  
Roa Manor Facility

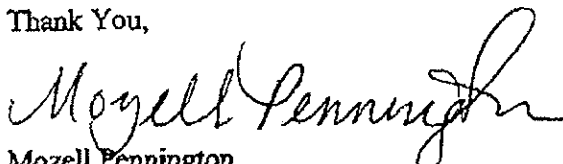
### **Facility and Environment:**

As directed the bathroom cabinetry has been thoroughly cleaned and the missing cabinet knob has been replaced. Daily cleanliness will be maintained by the childcare staff. Facility Manager, John Walton will ensure proper maintenance is up kept and will report any repair needs to administration.

### **Needs and Services:**

Our facility team leader Katherine Erickson, LCSW has improved our Needs and Service reports that will be completed every 90 days for all clients. Our Needs and Service reports will be more comprehensive, including more simplistic and measurable goals for our clients. Clients objectives shall be realistic, time limited and will include baselines that aid in the facility helping client in behavior improvement. The clients input will be optimized by them helping to develop his own plan for behavior correction.

Thank You,

  
Mozell Pennington

***Mozell Pennington's Boys Center***  
***14818 S. Butler Avenue***  
***Compton, California 90221***  
***310-639-2472 phone/fax***

August 1, 2005

Candace Rue, GH Audit Supervisor  
Dept. of Auditor Controller  
500 W. Temple St. Room #515-A  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
213-346-9020 fax

Re: Program Audit Report: July 21, 2005  
Butler Facility

**Facility and Environment:**

As directed, Bathroom #1 shower door, window seal and bathroom floor has been completely cleaned and refurbished. The grout around the bathtub in bathroom #2 has been cleaned and replaced. The cabinetry and shelving in the laundry room has been replaced. The back hall light fixture has been replaced. Facility childcare staff is responsible for facility cleanliness. Administrator, Anne Butler will ensure that all repairs will be completed as reported.

**Needs and Services:**

Our facility team leader Katherine Erickson, LCSW has improved our Needs and Service reports that will be completed every 90 days for all clients. Our Needs and Service reports will be more comprehensive, including more simplistic and measurable goals for our clients. Clients objectives shall be realistic, time limited and will include baselines that aid in the facility helping client in behavior improvement. The clients input will be optimized by them helping to develop his own plan for behavior correction.

**Educational Assessment:**

When facility was reviewed all of are clients were new. Therefore, the educational information included in their files were limited. Since the Auditors visit, all clients have been placed in appropriate school placement sites. School files are available for review in client files.

**Psychotropic Court Authorizations:**

MPBC has implemented a no tolerance policy for the admittance of clients with psychiatric authorizations. All clients placed must have the authorization prior to being admitted. We currently have no clients on medication. The client for which we were cited is no longer residing in the facility. Administrator, Anne Butler is responsible for the proper placement of all clients. All potential clients on psychiatric medications must have current authorization on file prior to placement.

Thank You,

  
Mozell Pennington